REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 18, 2006 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims and drawings and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Replacement Figures 1-4 are submitted. Claims 1, 36, 37 and 29 are amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Support for the amendments is found at least in paragraph [0039] of the present specification. No new matter is added. Claims 1-46 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

The Office Action objected to the drawings for being informal. Applicants respectfully submit replacement drawings sheets for Figs. 1-4. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Publication No. 2003/0078031 to Masuda (Masuda). Applicants respectfully submit that Masuda fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of any of the pending claims.

Claim 1 from which claims 2-20 depend recites a communications system. The communications system includes at least one user device, the at least one user device configured to access a plurality of services in a session. The communications system further includes a first entity including an information store for storing information defining an amount of money for the at least one user device. The communications system further includes and a controller, separate to said first entity, for requesting from

the first entity that at least a portion of said amount of money to be reserved in the first entity as a reserved portion and for controlling an allocation of the reserved portion between the plurality of services after the request.

Applicants respectfully submit that each of the above claims recite features that are neither disclosed nor suggested in Masuda.

Masuda relates to a communication system. Masuda describes a technique for allocating a pre-paid balance between a plurality of services such as a voice service and a packet communication service, where a prepayment control device both stores the pre-paid balance and allocates portions of the balance to the plurality of services. See paragraph [0014] of Masuda.

Applicants submit that Masuda fails to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in the pending claims. Specifically, Masuda fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of a controller, separate to the first entity, for requesting to the first entity, that at least a portion of the amount of money to be reserved at the first entity as a reserved portion and for controlling an allocation of the reserved portion between the plurality of services and the allocation is controlled after making the request, as recited in claim 1.

The Office Action took the position in relation to these claims, that the user prepaid service providing means 23 in Figure 1 of Masuda reads upon the recited first entity. However, in the system illustrated in Figure 1 of Masuda the prepayment control means 22 (alleged in the Office Action as the recited controller) does not request that the service providing means 23 reserve at the service providing means a portion of an amount

of money prior to controlling the allocation of the reserve portion, as recited in claim 1. Thus, Masuda fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that because claims 2-20 depend from claim 1, these claims are allowable at least for the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for the additional features recited in these dependent claims.

Based at least on the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Masuda fails to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claims 1-20. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 21-29 and 31-46 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Masuda, in view of US Publication No. 2004/0077332 to Ephraim (Ephraim). The Office Action took the position that Masuda disclosed all of the features of these claims except wherein the first entity is configured to send to the controller information defining an amount of the reserved portion in a first form other than a monetary amount and the controller is arranged to convert information relating to the amount of the reserved portion to a second form as a monetary amount. The Office Action asserted that Ephraim disclosed this feature. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, taken individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in any of the pending claims.

Claim 21, from which claims 22-34 depend, is directed to a communications system. The communications system includes at least one user device, the at least one user device being configured to access a plurality of services simultaneously. The

communications system further includes a first entity for storing information defining an amount of money for the at least one user device. Further, the communications system includes a controller for requesting reservation of at least a portion of the amount of money as a reserved portion, and controlling an allocation of the reserved portion between the plurality of services. In the communications system, the first entity is configured to send to the controller information defining an amount of the reserved portion in a first form other than a monetary amount, and the controller is arranged to convert information relating to the amount of the reserved portion to a second form as a monetary amount.

Claim 35 is directed to a communications method. The method includes accessing a plurality of services in a session, and storing at a first entity, information defining an amount of money for at least one user device. The method further includes requesting to the first entity from a controller separate from the first entity, at least a portion of the amount of money to be reserved as a reserved portion at the first entity, and controlling at the controller an allocation of the reserved portion between the plurality of services after making the request to the first entity.

Claim 36 recites a controller for use in a communications system. The controller includes at least one user device, the at least one user device being configured to access a plurality of services in a session. The controller further includes an information store for storing information at a first entity defining an amount of money for the at least one user device, the controller being separate from first entity and being configured to make a

request to the first entity, at least a portion of the amount of money to be reserved in the first entity as a reserved portion and to control an allocation of the reserved portion between the plurality of services after making the request.

Claim 37 recites a communications method. The method includes accessing a plurality of services simultaneously, and storing information defining an amount of money for at least one user device. The method further includes requesting a reservation of at least a portion of the amount of money as a reserved portion. The method further includes sending to a controller for allocating the reserved portion between the plurality of services information defining an amount of the reserved portion in a first form other than a monetary amount, and converting information relating to the amount of the portion to a second form as a monetary amount, and then allocating the reserved portion between the plurality of services.

Claim 38 recites a controller for use in a communications system. The communications system includes at least one user device, the at least one user device being configured to access a plurality of services simultaneously. The communications system further includes a first entity for storing information defining an amount of money for the at least one user device, the controller being configured to request a reservation of at least a portion of the amount of money as a reserved portion, to convert information defining an amount of the reserved portion in a first form other than a monetary amount received from the first entity to a second form as a monetary amount, and to then control an allocation of the reserved portion between the plurality of services.

Claim 39 recites another embodiment of a communications system. The communication system includes accessing means for accessing a plurality of services in a session, and storing means for storing at a first entity, information defining an amount of money for at least one user device. The communications system further includes requesting means separate from the first entity, for making a request to the first entity, that at least a portion of the amount of money to be reserved as a reserved portion at the first entity, and controlling means separate from the first entity, for controlling an allocation of the reserved portion between the plurality of services after making the request.

Claim 40, from which claims 41-46 depend, recites another embodiment of a communications system. The communications system includes accessing means for accessing a plurality of services simultaneously, storing means for storing information defining an amount of money for at least one user device. The communications system further includes requesting means for requesting a reservation of at least a portion of the amount of money as a reserved portion, sending means for sending information defining an amount of the reserved portion in a first form other than as a monetary amount, and control means for converting information relating to the amount of the portion to a second form as a monetary amount and controlling an allocation of the reserved portion between the plurality of services.

Masuda is discussed above. Ephraim is directed to providing prepaid data transfer services to a subscriber through a communication device, such as a wireless or wireline

device. The communication device is connected to a data network for transferring data from a data source, such as the Internet. A prepaid system monitors the data network in order to determine whether a particular requested data transfer should be authorized or continued, for example according to the prepaid amount available in the account of the system.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the above claims. Specifically, regarding claims 35, 36 and 39, Masuda is deficient at least for the reasons stated above and Ephraim fails to cure these deficiencies. Further, regarding claims 21-29 and 31-46 Ephraim fails to cure the admitted deficiencies of Masuda.

Regarding claims 35, 36 and 39, Masuda is relied upon in the Office Action to disclose the feature of requesting at a controller separate from the first entity at least a portion of the amount of money to be reserved as a reserved portion, as recited in claim 35 and similarly recited in claims 36 and 39. However, as discussed above, Masuda fails to disclose or suggest that the prepayment control means 22 (alleged in the Office Action as the recited controller) requests that the service providing means 23, to reserve at the service providing means 23, a portion of an amount of money prior to controlling the allocation of the reserve portion. Applicants further submit that Ephraim fails to cure these deficiencies.

Further, regarding claims 21-29 and 31-46, Applicants respectfully submit that Ephraim fails to cure the admitted deficiencies of Masuda. Ephraim is relied upon in the

Office Action to disclose the feature of sending information defining the amount of the reserved portion in a first form other than a monetary amount and then converting the information at the controller into a monetary amount. However, Ephraim merely describes the conversion of tokens into an actual total monetary amount, and not a portion thereof, as claimed in the present invention. Thus, Ephraim fails to cure the admitted deficiencies of Masuda.

Applicants further submit that because claims 22-29, 32-34 and 41-46 depend from claims 21 and 40, these claims are allowable at least for the same reasons as claims 21 and 40, as well as for the additional features recited in these dependent claims.

Based at least on the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references taken individually or in combination fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claims 21-29 and 31-46. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 21-29 and 31-46 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Masuda and Ephraim, in further view of US Pub. No. 2003/0037176 to Dannehr et al. (Dannehr). The Office Action took the position that Masuda and Ephraim disclosed all of the features of claim 30 except the feature of a first entity that operates in accordance with a CAMEL protocol. The Office Action asserted that Dannehr disclosed this feature. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references taken individually or in combination fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 30.

Specifically, because claim 30 depends from claim 21, Masuda and Ephraim are deficient at least for the same reasons stated above regarding claim 21, and Dannehr fails to cure these deficiencies.

Dannehr is directed to message transmission between telecommunications network elements that are involved in Multimedia Service (MMS). Dannehr fails to mention, disclose or suggest the feature of requesting at a controller separate from the first entity at least a portion of the amount of money to be reserved as a reserved portion. Therefore, Dannehr fails to cure the deficiencies of Masuda.

Based at least on the above, Applicants submit that the cited references taken individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 30. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 1-46 recite features that are neither disclosed not suggested in any of the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that each of claims 1-46 be allowed and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by

telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Replacement Formal Drawings (4 sheets – Figs. 1-4)

IN THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs 1-4. The attached sheets including Figs. 1-4, replaces the original sheets including Figs. 1-4.